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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 28 March 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its appendix, which contains a letter dated 27 March 1994 sent to you by Mrs. Süheyla Küçük, President of the Turkish Cypriot Women's Association, could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 27 March 1995 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the copy of a letter dated 27 March 1995 addressed to you by Mrs. Süheyla Küçük, President of the Turkish Cypriot Women's Association, which is in response to a statement made by the Greek Cypriot delegate at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 5, entitled "Monitoring the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women", held on 21 March 1995.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its appendix could be circulated as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 51.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus

Appendix

As President of the Turkish Cypriot Women's Association, I am writing to express our profound indignation at the remarks made by the Greek Cypriot delegate at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women recently held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

First of all, allow me to state that the Greek Cypriot delegate does not represent Cyprus as a whole and cannot speak on behalf of Turkish Cypriot women or "women of Cyprus" as she claims. Such a presumptuous claim is legally void and morally impermissible. On the other hand, we find the substance of her remarks regarding the historical events and political developments in Cyprus, and how they have affected the condition of women, totally misguided and hypocritical.

It is true that there was an invasion in Cyprus in 1974 and, in fact, in the preceding 11 years before then; but this was the Greek invasion of Cyprus clearly identified as such by Archbishop Makarios in his dramatic speech to the Security Council on 19 July 1974, several days after a coup directed from Athens that had toppled him.

Turkish Cypriots, women included, are the real victims of the 31-year-old Cyprus conflict that the Greek side has created in order to make the island part of Greece. To try to blame others for what the Greek Cypriots have caused themselves is an insult to the memory of those women who lost their lives and to the thousands of Turkish Cypriot women who have lost their loved ones. To exploit past events and human suffering, on the other hand, particularly on an occasion which is supposed to be dedicated to "the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women", seems to us to be a contradiction of the very purpose of, and a disservice to, the occasion itself.

I am sure you will agree with us that there is nothing "forward-looking" about bringing up and distorting historic events for propaganda purposes, and thus not only perpetuating but also exacerbating the prevailing lack of trust between the two communities in Cyprus. We therefore deplore this unbecoming behaviour of the Greek Cypriot delegate at the above-mentioned meeting and call on Greek Cypriot women and officials to stop creating further obstacles for the creation of an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust between the two peoples of the island.